

Implementation of mobile number portability

3059. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the recommendations of TRAI regarding implementation of mobile number portability is being opposed by large mobile operators such as BSNL, Bharti and Hutch etc.;
- (b) the steps taken by TRAI to facilitate introduction of this consumer friendly measure in the mobile service sector;
- (c) the reasons for rejection of recommendations of TRAI regarding implementation of mobile number portability by Government;
- (d) whether TRAI plans to undertake a consultation process once again on the implementation of mobile number portability; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has submitted its recommendations on Mobile Number Portability on 8.3.2006. During the consultation process, some of the stakeholders have stated that :

- (i) In most of the countries the Mobile Number Portability was introduced at a time when the tele-density was around 25% to 30%.
 - (ii) Most of the mobile operators are at present involved in rolling out of their network in the semi-urban/rural areas and hence it is not the right time to introduce Mobile Number Portability as they will have to incur heavy expenditure on upgradation of their network/ switches for Mobile Number Portability;
 - (iii) There is enough competition in all the license areas and hence the introduction of Mobile Number Portability will not yield major benefit to the customer.
- (c) As on date, no decision has been taken on the recommendation of TRAI on Mobile Number Portability.
- (d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.